NEW FISH FROM VICTORIA

By GILBERT WHITLEY

(Contribution from the Australian Museum, Sydney)

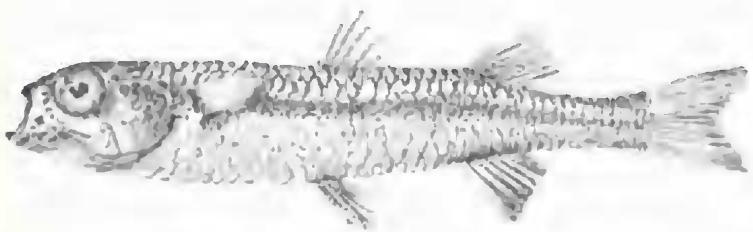
Family ATHERINIDAE

PRANESELLA ENDORAE, new genus and species.

Br. 6. D. vi/9; A. i/8. Sc. 40.

Head (12 mm.) 4, depth (9) 5·3 in standard length (48). Eye (4) equal to interorbital (4), which is much greater than snout (2·25).

Form elongate, compressed; anterior portions of back and belly flattened, not keeled. Head scaly, except before the eyes, which are large. Interorbital flat. Preopercular ridges without spines; operculum rounded, not truncate, posteriorly. A series of pores along preorbital and over eyes. Mouth fairly large, with several rows of small hooked teeth, largest anteriorly, in jaws, but none on tongue or vomer. Maxillary reaching to anterior portion of eye when mouth is closed. No elevated mandibular rami. Premaxillaries slender throughout their length, not laterally notched;



Pranesella endorae, gen. et sp. nov., Altona, Victoria.

premaxillary processes short and truncate. Gill-rakers slender, with a few small spines; there are about twelve on the lower portion of the first branchial arch. Gill-slits wide; isthmus extremely narrow.

Body covered with large cycloid scales which are not crenulated. About forty transverse and seven or eight horizontal rows of scales; twelve predorsal and seven interdorsal scales.

Dorsal fins well separated, the first with six flexible spines whose greatest height is almost equal to the interdorsal space, but none of the spines is produced. The first dorsal originates nearer the muzzle than the root of the caudal. Anal fin short, its origin in advance of that of the second dorsal. Base of anal shorter than its distance from caudal. Pectorals rounded, highly situated. Ventrals in advance of origin of first dorsal fin; their tips almost reach the vent, which is well in advance of the anal fin. Caudal forked.

Colour, in spirit, straw-yellowish above and silvery below. A broad pink or silvery band, tapering posteriorly, along each side. Snout, tips of jaws, edges of dorsal scales, and middle of caudal peduncle blackish, as are also the areas near pectoral and anal bases. No dusky blotch on pectoral fin.

Described and figured from the holotype, a specimen 48 mm. in standard length or 2¾ inches in total length. It is the largest of eight specimens 1½ to 2¼ inches long. The younger ones are slightly more elongate and have fewer than forty scales between shoulder and tail. Upon dissection, one was found to have forty vertebrae.

Locality.—Altona, near Melbourne, Victoria; Nov.-Dec., 1933. Australian Museum regd. Nos. I.A. 5904, 5908 (type) and 5909.

Named in honour of Mrs. M. Endora Freame, who has recently made excellent collections of small fishes and marine invertebrates in the vicinity of Melbourne. The small and inconspicuously coloured fishes well repay study as they are less known than the more showy large ones and it is hoped that the present discovery will induce other naturalists to collect and observe them.

Miss Joyce Allan has kindly prepared the illustration of this new fish, which is distinguished mainly by its toothless palate, large scales, relatively few gill-rakers, and lack of elevated mandibular rami. It is apparently quite different from all the known Australian Hardyheads or Silversides.

I take this opportunity of proposing another new generic name, ATHERINASON, for *Atherina dannevigi*, which McCulloch described and figured in the Zoological Results of the *Endeavour*. Dannevig's Hardyhead is a very distinct type with a long snout and very numerous scales, and may now be known as *Atherinason dannevigi* (McCulloch).

SMALL BEETLES

By C. DEANE.

The beetles of the family Ptiliidae (*Trichopterygidae*) are about the size of a full stop mark of ordinary news print. They are found in leaf debris on the ground, on the underneath side of mouldy logs, on fungus plants, under half-dried seaweed on beaches, on flowers of plants, and one species even swims in the water. *Philagarica*, as its name implies, is a lover of mould or fungus.

Although in general structure they are as complex as large beetles, yet the eyes of these minute beetles are an exception, having comparatively few facets. This probably is due to the inability of smaller eye elements to accommodate the light vibrations for clear vision. Another interesting part of the structure is the wing. This is furnished with very long hairs along the entire margin of the membrane on both sides. The membrane